

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 11, 18, 23, and 24 are amended, and claim 25 is presented. No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-9 and 11-25 are pending and under consideration. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claim Amendments

Independent claim 1 is amended herein to recite an access restriction method for a device control system comprising a device control server interconnected over a home network with a plurality of different types of devices within a home and a single operating terminal capable of transmission of instruction signals directly to each of said plurality of devices, the instruction signals relating to operation of said plurality of devices that are connected on the home network, said method comprising: accepting registration of terminal information for associating a unique identifier established for said single operating terminal with said operating terminal access right for accessing said plurality of devices connected on the home network. . . ; and controlling one or more of said plurality of different types of devices based on said operating terminal access right and signal instructions, directly received from said operating terminal, relating to one or more of said plurality of different types of devices." (Amendatory language being underlined). Independent claims 11, 18, and 23 are similarly amended herein.

Support for the amendment is found, for example, on page 22, lines 13-15 of the specification.

Claim 24 is amended herein to correct a formality. No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

Item 4: Rejection of claims 1, 9, 11 and 22-23 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Items 6-13: Rejection of claims 2-8, 12-17, 19-21, and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

In item 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejects independent claims 1, 11 and 22-23 (and dependent claim 9) under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Holmes (U.S.P. 5,875,395). In items 6-13 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejects independent claim 18 and dependent claims 2-8, 12-17, 19-21, and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Holmes in view of combinations of Buffam (U.S.P. 6,185,316), Sizer, II et al. (U.S.P. 6,021,324), Muhonen (U.S.P. 6,751,472), Dugan (U.S.P. 6,779,030), Yatsukawa (U.S.P. 6,148,404), and Davidson ("CEBus: A New Standard in Home Automation"). The rejections are traversed.

Independent claim 1 recites an access restriction method for a device control system comprising a device control server interconnected over a home network with a plurality of different types of devices within a home and a single operating terminal capable of transmission of instruction signals directly to each of said plurality of devices, the instruction signals relating to operation of said plurality of devices that are connected on the home network, said method comprising: accepting registration of terminal information for associating a unique identifier established for said single operating terminal with said operating terminal access right for accessing said plurality of devices connected on the home network; . . . and controlling one or more of said plurality of different types of devices based on said operating terminal access right and signal instructions, directly received from said operating terminal, relating to one or more of said plurality of different types of devices. (emphasis added). " Independent claims 11, 18, 22, and 23 have similar recitations.

Applicants submit that none of the cited art teach, alone or in *arguendo* combinations, a single operating terminal transmitting instruction signals directly to each of a plurality of devices and controlling one or more of the plurality of different types of devices based on signal instructions directly received the single operating terminal, as recited by each of the independent claims.

Particularly, Applicants submit however, that, Holmes, alone or in combination, does not teach:

- 1) a single operating terminal transmitting instruction signals relating to operations of one or more of said plurality of different types of devices, and
- 2) where the transmission is directly to said plurality of devices, and
- 3) wherein both the terminal and the plurality of devices are on the home network.

By contrast, Holmes merely teaches in col. 3, lines 18-36:

The application interface 22 translates data, which may include commands, between the mobile station 10 or wired network 24 and the application equipment 26.

(Emphasis added).

According to an aspect of the present invention, as discussed for example, on page 22, lines 13-15 of the specification:

A registration request signal is sent using the communication device 41 to any of the devices interconnected with the home network 5.

In support of the rejection of claim 22, the Examiner asserts:

Holmes teaches that the operating terminal controls said one or more

devices by sending out commands to the one or more devices; the teaching meets the limitation of the operating terminal directly controlling said one or more devices with signals transmitted from said terminal.

(Action at page 4, lines 14-18).

However, Applicants submit that Holmes does not teach recited features, for example, of a single operating terminal directly controlling said one or more devices with signals transmitted from said terminal" and the Examiner has not provided citations to Holmes as where such teachings are found.

Summary

Since features recited by independent claims 1, 11, 18, and 22-23 (and respective dependent claims 2-8, 10, 12-17, and 19-21) are not taught by the cited art, alone or in combination and *prima facie* obviousness is not established, the rejection should be withdrawn and claims 1-9 and 11-24 allowed.

New Claim

New claim 25 recites features of the present invention in a different fashion. New claim 25 recites an access restriction method for a device control system comprising a device control server interconnected over home network with a plurality of different types of devices within a home and a single operating terminal capable of transmission of instruction signals directly to each of said plurality of devices . . . said method comprising: accepting registration of terminal information for associating a unique identifier established for said single operating terminal with said operating terminal access right for accessing said plurality of devices connected on the home network; . . . ; and controlling one or more of said plurality of different types of devices based on said operating terminal access right and said signal instructions, directly received from said operating terminal, relating to one or more of said plurality of different types of devices."

Support for the new claim is found, for example on page 21, line 21 to page 30, line 10. No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

These, and other, features of claim 25 patentably distinguish over the cited art, and they are submitted to be allowable for the recitations therein.

CONCLUSION

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot, and further, that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. Thus, there being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for

allowance which action is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any remaining issues to be addressed, it is believed that prosecution can be expedited and possibly concluded by the Examiner contacting the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview to discuss any such remaining issues.

If there are any underpayments or overpayments of fees associated with the filing of this Amendment, please charge and/or credit the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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